

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Ducks in Pools

**Wild ducks and geese are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
Destroying nest or eggs, killing, or possessing these birds
without a permit is prohibited.**

Local Animal Control Agents are not allowed to remove nesting birds

Urban development has created an artificial environment in the desert that is attracting waterfowl. Pools and ponds, and landscaping with grass, shrubs, and trees, have provided water, food, and shelter for ducks and geese.

When ducks and geese end up in your pool they can cause problems. They can clog pool filters, litter your lawns with their feathers and feces, and eat your grass and garden seeds. Small ducks and geese may not be able to get out of your pool. They can also attract unwanted predators such as dogs, cats, skunks, and coyotes.

There is NO federally-permitted wild bird rescue or nuisance bird removal program in Nevada, so private citizens are responsible for dealing with their waterfowl problems.

Here are some things you can do to help discourage waterfowl from using your pool, pond, backyard, or golf course:

- C **DON-T FEED WATERFOWL!** Feeding will attract more waterfowl, and will encourage them to stay. Waterfowl are wild animals, and they know how to find food without your help.
- C **Don't let waterfowl nest on your property.** If you see waterfowl building a nest on your property, destroy the nest **BEFORE** they lay eggs. Once eggs are laid, you must leave the nest alone until the eggs hatch and chicks are mobile. Nesting begins around March and can run into July. Incubation time is approximately 30 days, and chicks, although mobile, are unable to fly for about another 50 to 60 days. Once the eggs hatch and the chicks are dry, the mother will want to lead them to water. **THIS COULD BE YOUR POOL!** So don't let them breed in your yard.
- C Keep your pool covered when not in use.
- C Use scare devices. Spray them with a hose, or periodically broadcasting loud noises or horns. Erect flapping flags around your yard (the plastic triangular kind you see at car lots), or shiny, metallic streamers.
- C Use trained herding dogs to chase away unwanted waterfowl on large areas like golf courses. However, you should only use dogs specifically trained for this purpose, as they will flush waterfowl, but will not catch and kill them. For more information on the use of dogs and other methods for waterfowl control, contact U.S. Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services, at 702-432-9425 or 775-289-2791.
- C If a duck can't get out of your pool, place a long flat board, plank or blanket in the pool, propped up against the side. The duck can then walk out of the pool. You can also use your pool cleaning net to scoop the bird out of your pool.

If you have further questions, contact the Fish and Wildlife Service at 702-647-5230.